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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY
WHITE HOUSE SUPPORT STAFF

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DIRECTOR: WHITE HOUSE SITUATION ROOM

SUBJECT: PRELIMINARY VIEW OF GREEK TRANSITION GOVERNMENT

GENERAL IOANNIDIS' CYPRUS ADVENTURE HAS PROVIDED THE IMPETUS FOR THE SHIFT FROM TIGHT-FISTED MILITARY RULE TO OSTENSIBLE CIVILIAN CONTROL. HARD-LINE POSITIONS LONG HELD BY BOTH SIDES OBVIOUSLY WERE COMPROMISED: THE JUNTA ONLY RELUCTANTLY TURNED TO THE ~~OLD~~ POLITICIANS THAT THEY HAD SEVEN YEARS EARLIER THROWN OUT OF OFFICE. KARAMANLIS, MAVROS, AND OTHERS WERE GIVEN CERTAIN PRIVILEGES, BUT WILL SURELY HAVE TO OPERATE WITHIN LIMITS DETERMINED BY THE MILITARY.

THE TRANSITION REGIME HAS A STRONGLY CONSERVATIVE CAST. KARAMANLIS IS THE LONG-TIME LEADER OF THE NATIONAL RADICAL UNION PARTY, THE SUCCESSOR TO THE FAR RIGHT GREEK RALLY OF THE EARLY POST WORLD WAR II YEARS. MAVROS IS A POLITICAL MODERATE AND

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TITULAR HEAD OF THE CENTER UNION PARTY, FORMED IN THE EARLY 1960S, WHICH IS A LOOSE AMALGAM OF SOME 20 "PARTIES" OF VARIOUS POLITICAL HUES. OTHERS IN THE PRESENT CABINET SEEM TO HAVE BEEN CHOSEN PRIMARILY FOR THEIR EXPERTISE AND ABILITY TO HEAD "NON-POLITICAL" MINISTRIES. MOST OF THOSE ^{MEN} SEEM TO HAVE RELATIVELY MODERATE POLITICAL LEANINGS.

OVER THE SHORT RUN AND PARTICULARLY AS LONG AS THE GOVERNMENT IS ENGAGED WITH ANAKRA OVER CYPRUS--AN ISSUE WHICH TENDS TO UNIFY ALL GREEKS--AN AIR OF RELIEF WILL REPLACE THE REPRESSIVE POLITICAL ATMOSPHERE OF THE LAST SEVEN YEARS. THE RELIEF IS SURE TO BE SHORT-LIVED, GIVEN THE VOLATILE NATURE OF GREEK POLITICS. GREEK POLITICAL PARTIES FOR THE MOST PART ARE BASED MORE ON PERSONAL FOLLOWINGS THAN ON IDEOLOGICAL LEANINGS.

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THE MILITARY'S INVITATION TO THE POLITICIANS TO RETURN WILL SEEM TO SOME OF THESE MEN AN OPEN INVITATION TO REVERT TO EARLIER POLITICAL ANTICS. THIS IS ESPECIALLY APPLICABLE TO THE MORE LIBERAL POLITICIANS--ANDREAS PAPANDREOU, FOR EXAMPLE, A FORMER LEFTIST DEPUTY {CENTER UNION PARTY}, WHOSE GROWING POWER WAS THE IMMEDIATE CAUSE OF THE 1967 COUP. AN EVENTUAL CHALLENGE BY THIS GROUP TO THE PRESENT CONSERVATIVE ARRANGEMENT SEEMS CERTAIN.

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PAPANDREOU AND HIS COLLEAGUES IN THE FAR LEFT HAVE LONG
RAILED AGAINST NATO AND US "DOMINATION" OF GREECE. PAPANDREOU'S
PERSONAL AMBITION AND THE RATHER WIDE SUPPORT HE COULD COMMAND
IN A FREER POLITICAL ATMOSPHERE, MIGHT WELL GIVE THE SPARK TO
CHANNELING THE EUPHORIA RESULTING FROM THE DEMISE OF THE
JUNTA INTO A CHALLENGE TO GREECE'S TRADITIONAL POLITICAL TIES
TO THE WEST.